the pace of Information Technology, Central Government has laid down policy framework for education and research in engineering technology in the country. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has been approving proposals for setting up of technical institutions to cater to various sectors including manufacturing and infrastructure sector.

In 1997-98 the sanctioned intake in AICTE approved degree level Engineering Institutions was 134298, which rose to 380803 in the year 2003-04. Apart from various schemes of AICTE for improvement of quality and skill of technical teachers, regional Boards of Apprentice Training (BOAT) are constantly in touch with the establishments and State Governments for training of freshly passed out graduate engineers, diploma engineers and + 2 volcational candidates for practical on the job training. As per the report of the Task Force the existing intake capacity and trends towards increase in intake capacity in other educational institutions would adequately meet the projected requirements. Government has launched CLASS (Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools) Scheme in schools, especially those schools that cater to the vast under privileged majority of the country. University Grants Commission has also been assisting universities and colleges for development of computer education, upgradation/augmentation of computer facilities by implementing various schemes and programmes. Even in non-formal sector, institutions accredited with DOEACC Society under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology impart skill-based training.

Common All India entrance for computer application courses

1160. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to introduce a common All India entrance list for computer application courses (MCA); and

(b) if so, what are the details of this scheme and its implications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) In pursuance to the judgement on August 14, 2003 of the 5-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court read with Majority Judgement on October 31, 2002 of the 11-Judge Constitution Bench of Supreme Court with a view to avoid mental and physical burden on students due to multiplicity of entrance tests, it has been decided that the admission to all professional educational institution (both minority and non-minority) shall be held on the basis of merit determined through common entrance test(s).

Admissions on All India basis to the Master of Computer Applications (MCA or equivalent) programmes in all institutions in the country shall be made through an All India MCA Common Entrance Test (AIMCET) from the academic year 2004-05.

This Test shall be for those institutions that are presently holding their own entrance tests and admitting all their students or certain percentage of them on All India basis. All States shall continue to hold their own common entrance tests for admission to MCA programmes in institutions within their States as before. However, these tests shall be restricted to students from within the State only. Students admitted on All India basis in the State level institutions shall be admitted only on the basis of All India Test as above.

IIT Roorkee will conduct the entrance test for admission to MCA programme for the year 2004-2005.

Vacancies in Central Universities

1161. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of teaching posts vacant in Central Universities; and

(b) the action taken to fill the vacancies early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.